

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PERMIT

Permittee: Florida Department of Transportation - District One

Permit No: SAJ-2008-2398 (IP-JPF)

Issuing Office: U.S. Army Engineer District, Jacksonville

NOTE: The term "you" and its derivatives, as used in this permit, mean the permittee or any future transferee. The term "this office" refers to the appropriate district or division office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers having jurisdiction over the permitted activity or the appropriate official of that office acting under the authority of the commanding officer.

You are authorized to perform work in accordance with the terms and conditions specified below.

Project Description: The applicant proposes to permanently impact approximately 0.25 acre of wetlands and 0.95 acre of surface waters, to construct two additional travel lanes along an approximately 1.404-mile long segment of SR 70, with attendant stormwater management facilities. As mitigation for the project impacts, the applicant proposes to purchase 0.113 mitigation bank credit from the Bluefield Ranch Mitigation Bank. The project is referenced by FDOT as FPID Number 415025-1.

Geographic Position (Center Point of Project):

Latitude 27.296690
Longitude -80.687565

Project Location: The project site involves proposed impacts to unnamed wetlands and surface waters located along a 1.404-mile long segment of State Road 70 from Berman Road (NE 128th Avenue) to the St. Lucie County Line, in Section 36, Township 36 South, Range 36 East, Okeechobee County, Florida. The project is within the Everglades Watershed (03090202).

Permit Conditions:

General Conditions:

1. The time limit for completing the work authorized ends on **January 15, 2014**. If you find that you need more time to complete the authorized activity, submit your request for a time extension to this office for consideration at least one month before the above date is reached.
2. You must maintain the activity authorized by this permit in good condition and in conformance with the terms and conditions of this permit. You are not relieved of this requirement if you abandon the permitted activity, although you may make a good faith transfer to a third party in compliance with General Condition 4 below. Should you wish to cease to maintain the authorized activity or should you desire to abandon it without a good faith transfer, you must obtain a modification of this permit from this office, which may require restoration of the area.

3. If you discover any previously unknown historic or archeological remains while accomplishing the activity authorized by this permit, you must immediately notify this office of what you have found. We will initiate the Federal and State coordination required to determine if the remains warrant a recovery effort or if the site is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
4. If you sell the property associated with this permit, you must obtain the signature and mailing address of the new owner in the space provided and forward a copy of the permit to this office to validate the transfer of this authorization.
5. If a conditioned water quality certification has been issued for your project, you must comply with the conditions specified in the certification as special conditions to this permit. For your convenience, a copy of the certification is attached if it contains such conditions.
6. You must allow representatives from this office to inspect the authorized activity at any time deemed necessary to ensure that it is being or has been accomplished in accordance with the terms and conditions of your permit.

Special Conditions:

1. **Reporting Address:** All reports, documentation and correspondence required by the conditions of this permit shall be submitted to the following address: **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Division, Enforcement Section, 4400 PGA Boulevard, Suite 500, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida 33410.** The Permittee shall reference this permit number, SAJ-2008-2398 (IP - JPF), on all submittals.
2. **Commencement Notification:** Within 10 days from the date of initiating the authorized work, the Permittee shall provide to the Corps a written notification of the date of commencement of work authorized by this permit.
3. **Mitigation Credit Purchase:** Within 30 days from the date of initiating the authorized work or 12 months from the effective date of this permit, whichever first occurs, the Permittee shall provide verification to the Corps that 0.113 federal mitigation bank credit has been purchased from the Bluefield Ranch Mitigation Bank (SAJ-2000-2395). The required verification shall reference this project's permit number [SAJ-2008-2398 (IP-JPF)].
4. **As-Builts:** Within 60 days of completion of the authorized work or at the expiration of the construction window of this permit, whichever occurs first, the Permittee shall submit as-built drawings of the authorized work and a completed As-Built Certification Form to the Corps. The drawings shall be signed and sealed by a registered professional engineer and include the following:
 - a. A plan view drawing of the location of the authorized work footprint (as shown on the permit drawings) with an overlay of the work as constructed in the same scale as the attached

permit drawings (8½-inch by 11-inch). The drawing should show all "earth disturbance," including wetland impacts, water management structures, and any on-site mitigation areas.

b. List any deviations between the work authorized by this permit and the work as constructed. In the event that the completed work deviates, in any manner, from the authorized work, describe on the As-Built Certification Form the deviations between the work authorized by this permit and the work as constructed. Clearly indicate on the as-built drawings any deviations that have been listed. Please note that the depiction and/or description of any deviations on the drawings and/or As-Built Certification Form does not constitute approval of any deviations by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

c. The Department of the Army Permit number.

d. Include pre- and post-construction aerial photographs of the project site, if available.

5. **Erosion Control:** Prior to the initiation of any work authorized by this permit, the Permittee shall install erosion control measures along the perimeter of all work areas to prevent the displacement of fill material. Immediately after completion of the final grading of the land surface, all slopes, land surfaces, and filled areas adjacent to wetlands shall be stabilized using sod, degradable mats, or a combination of similar stabilizing materials to prevent erosion. The erosion control measures shall remain in place and be maintained until all authorized work has been completed and the site has been stabilized.

6. **Eastern Indigo Snake Protection Measures:** The Permittee shall comply with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's "Standard Protection Measures for the Eastern Indigo Snake" dated February 12, 2004, as attached to this permit.

Further Information:

1. Congressional Authorities: You have been authorized to undertake the activity described above pursuant to:

☐ Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403).

☒ Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

☐ Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1413).

2. Limits of this authorization.

a. This permit does not obviate the need to obtain other Federal, State, and local authorization required by law.

b. This permit does not grant any property rights or exclusive privileges.

- c. This permit does not authorize any injury to the property or rights of others.
 - d. This permit does not authorize interference with any existing or proposed Federal projects.
3. Limits of Federal Liability. In issuing this permit, the Federal Government does not assume any liability for the following:
- a. Damages to the permitted project or uses thereof as a result of other permitted or unpermitted activities or from natural causes.
 - b. Damages to the permitted project or uses thereof as a result of current or future activities undertaken by or on behalf of the United States in the public interest.
 - c. Damages to persons, property, or to other permitted or unpermitted activities or structures caused by the activity authorized by this permit.
 - d. Design or construction deficiencies associated with the permitted work.
 - e. Damage claims associated with any future modification, suspension, or revocation of this permit.
4. Reliance on Applicant's Data: The determination of this office that issuance of this permit is not contrary to the public interest was made in reliance on the information you provided.
5. Reevaluation of Permit Decision: This office may reevaluate its decision on this permit at any time the circumstances warrant. Circumstances that could require a reevaluation include, but are not limited to, the following:
- a. You fail to comply with the terms and conditions of this permit.
 - b. The information provided by you in support of your permit application proves to have been false, incomplete, or inaccurate (see 4 above).
 - c. Significant new information surfaces which this office did not consider in reaching the original public interest decision.

Such a reevaluation may result in a determination that it is appropriate to use the suspension, modification, and revocation procedures contained in 33 CFR 325.7 or enforcement procedures such as those contained in 33 CFR 326.4 and 326.5. The referenced enforcement procedures provide for the issuance of an administrative order requiring you comply with the terms and conditions of your permit and for the initiation of legal action where appropriate. You will be required to pay for any corrective measures ordered by this office, and if you fail to comply with such directive, this office may in certain situations (such as those specified in 33 CFR 209.170) accomplish the corrective measures by contract or otherwise and bill you for the cost.

6. Extensions: General Condition 1 establishes a time limit for the completion of the activity authorized by this permit. Unless there are circumstances requiring either a prompt completion of the authorized activity or a reevaluation of the public interest decision, the Corps will normally give favorable consideration to a request for an extension of this time limit.

Your signature below, as permittee, indicates that you accept and agree to comply with the terms and conditions of this permit.


(PERMITTEE) 01/26/09
(DATE)

This permit becomes effective when the Federal official, designated to act for the Secretary of the Army, has signed below.


(DISTRICT ENGINEER) 1/26/09
(DATE)
Paul L. Grosskruger
Colonel, U.S. Army

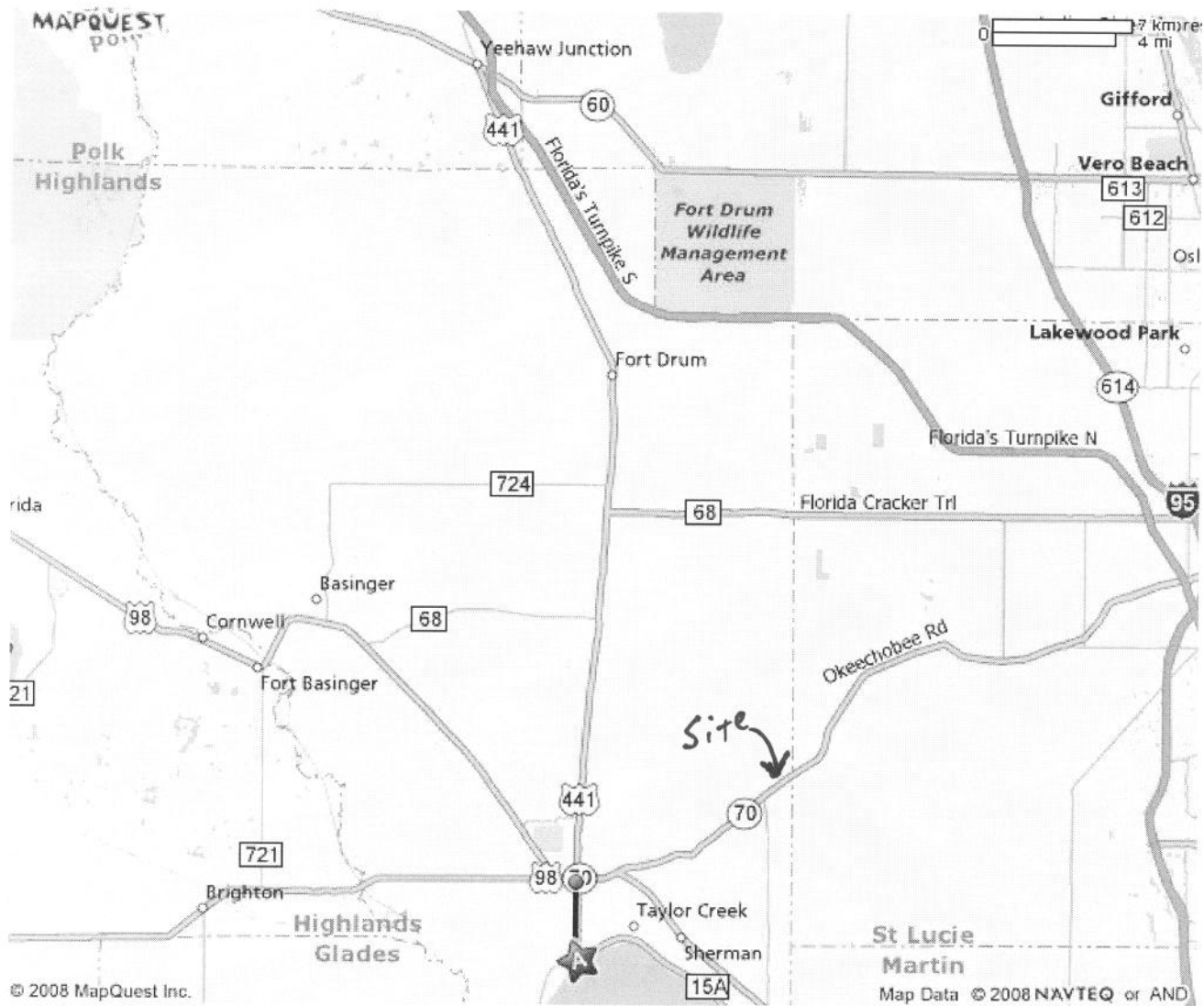
When the structures or work authorized by this permit are still in existence at the time the property is transferred, the terms and conditions of this permit will continue to be binding on the new owner(s) of the property. To validate the transfer of this permit and the associated liabilities associated with compliance with its terms and conditions, have the transferee sign and date below.

(TRANSFeree - SIGNATURE) (DATE)

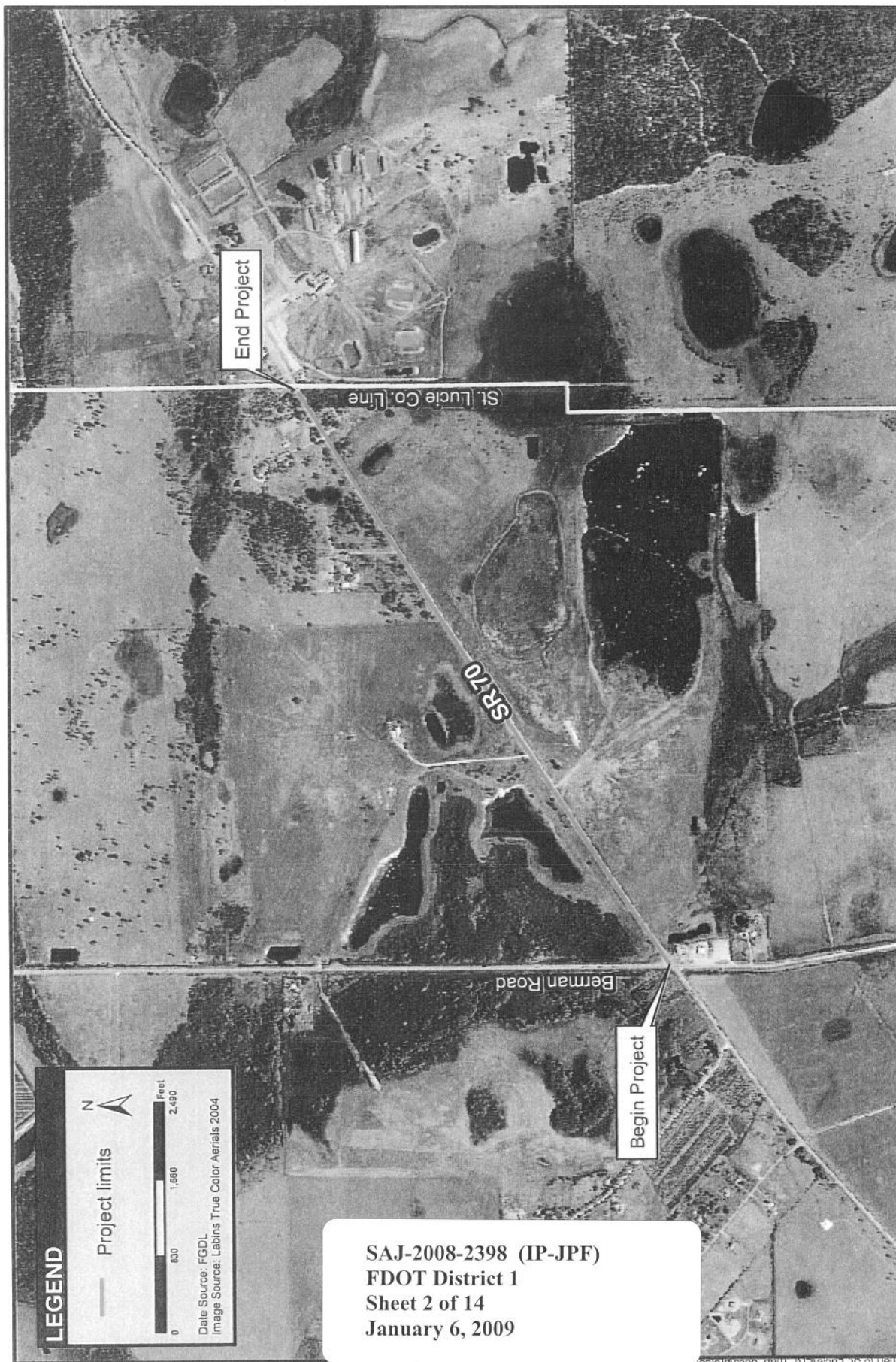
(NAME-PRINTED)

(ADDRESS)

(CITY, STATE, AND ZIP CODE)



SAJ-2008-2398 (IP-JPF)
 FDOT District 1
 Sheet 1 of 14
 January 6, 2009

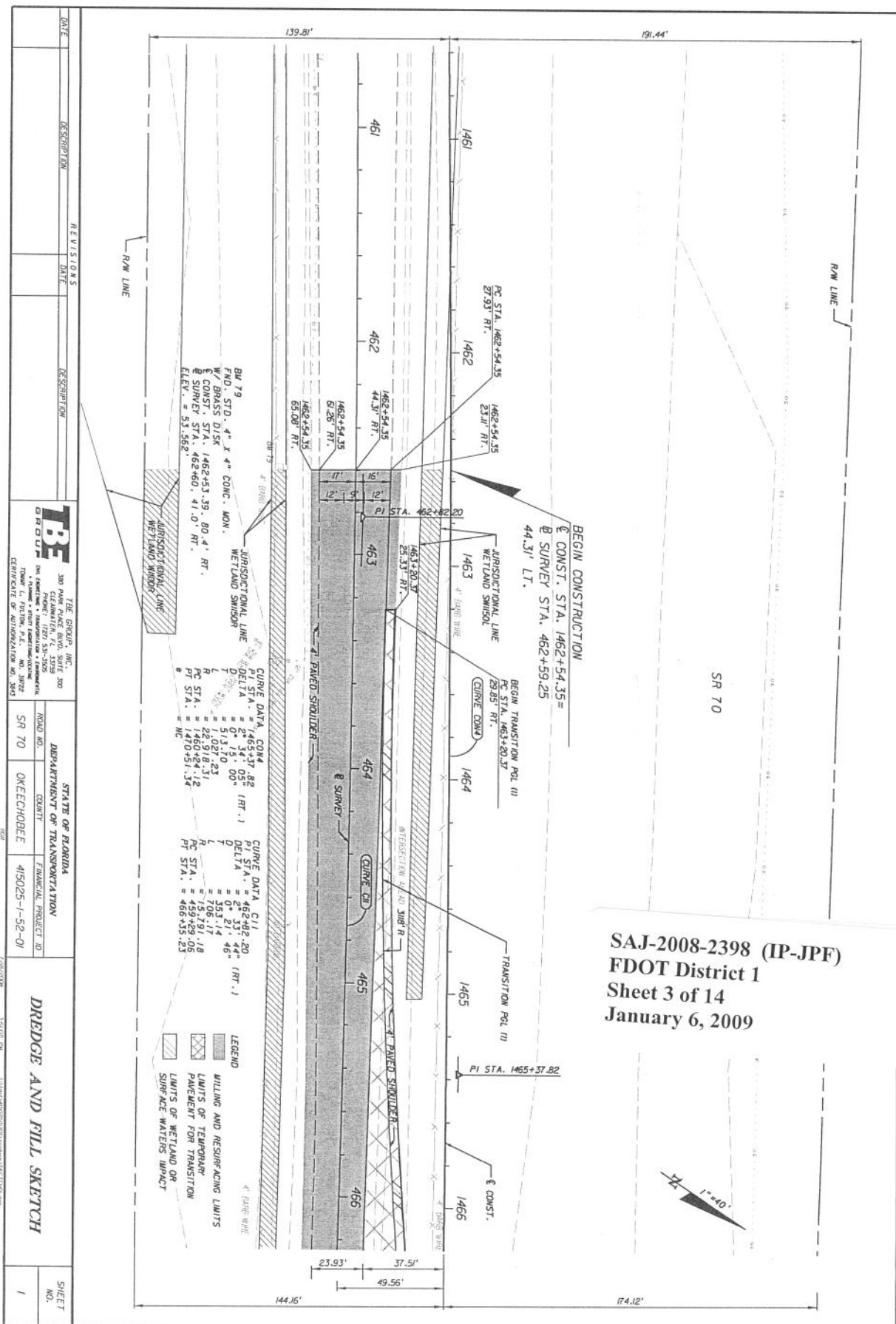


PROJECT LOCATION MAP

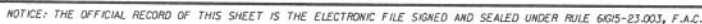
Figure 1

SR 70 Widening
Berman Road to St. Lucie County Line
Okeechobee County, Florida
FPID: 415025-1-52-01

SAJ-2008-2398 (IP-JPF)
FDOT District 1
Sheet 2 of 14
January 6, 2009

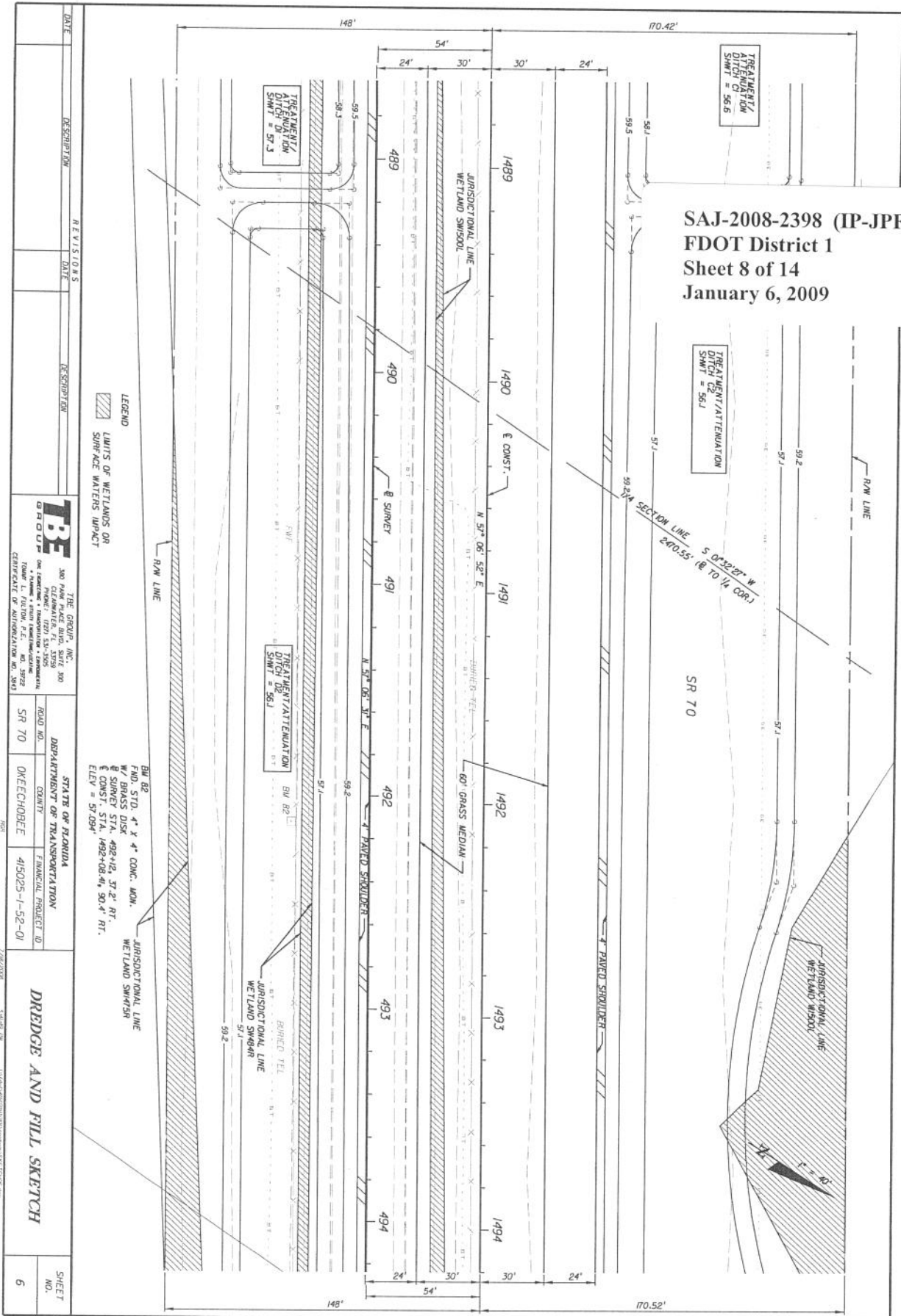


NOTICE: THE OFFICIAL RECORD OF THIS SHEET IS THE ELECTRONIC FILE SIGNED AND SEALED UNDER RULE 61G15-23.003, F.A.C.





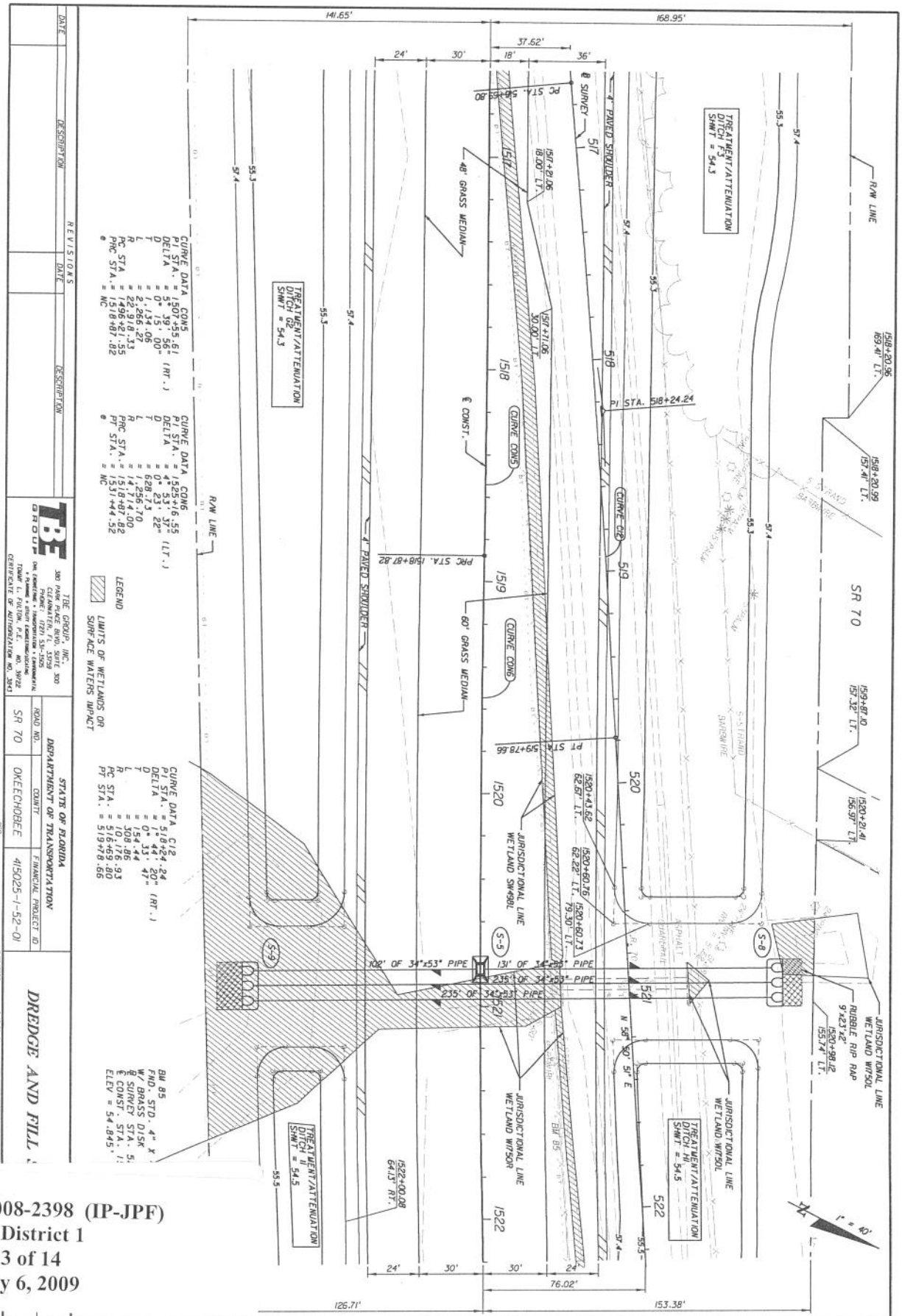
SAJ-2008-2398 (IP-JPF)
FDOT District 1
Sheet 8 of 14
January 6, 2009



NOTICE: THE OFFICIAL RECORD OF THIS SHEET IS THE ELECTRONIC FILE SIGNED AND SEALED UNDER RULE 61G05-23.003, F.A.C.







SAJ-2008-2398 (IP-JPF)
 FDOT District 1
 Sheet 13 of 14
 January 6, 2009





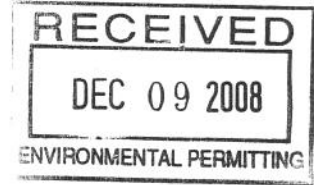
Form #0941
08/95

**SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE
STANDARD GENERAL PERMIT NO. 47-00956-P
DATE ISSUED: December 5, 2008**

RECEIVED

DEC 12 2008

**TAMPA REG.
OFFICE**



PERMITTEE: FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DISTRICT 1
P O BOX 1249
801 N BROADWAY
BARTOW, FL 338311249

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Construction and operation of a surface water management system to serve 55.14 acres of highway widening of State Road 70 in Okeechobee County, from the St. Lucie County line west 1.4 miles.

PROJECT LOCATION: OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, SEC 36 TWP 36S RGE 36E

PERMIT DURATION: See Special Condition No:1. See attached Rule 40E-4.321, Florida Administrative Code.

This is to notify you of the District's agency action concerning Notice of Intent for Permit Application No. 080616-4, dated June 16, 2008. This action is taken pursuant to Rule 40E-1.603 and Chapter 40E-40, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.).

Based on the information provided, District rules have been adhered to and an Environmental Resource General Permit is in effect for this project subject to:

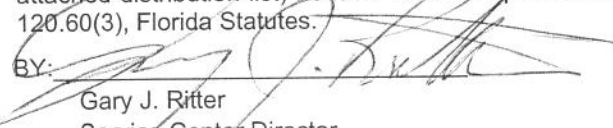
1. Not receiving a filed request for a Chapter 120, Florida Statutes, administrative hearing.
2. the attached 19 General Conditions (See Pages : 2 - 4 of 6),
3. the attached 17 Special Conditions (See Pages : 5 - 6 of 6) and
4. the attached 3 Exhibit(s)

Should you object to these conditions, please refer to the attached "Notice of Rights" which addresses the procedures to be followed if you desire a public hearing or other review of the proposed agency action. Please contact this office if you have any questions concerning this matter. If we do not hear from you in accordance with the "Notice of Rights," we will assume that you concur with the District's action.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a "Notice of Rights" has been mailed to the Permittee (and the persons listed in the attached distribution list) no later than 5:00 p.m. on this 5th day of December, 2008, in accordance with Section 120.60(3), Florida Statutes.

BY:


Gary J. Ritter
Service Center Director
Okeechobee Service Center

Certified mail number 7155 5474 4100 7795 2968

GENERAL CONDITIONS

1. All activities authorized by this permit shall be implemented as set forth in the plans, specifications and performance criteria as approved by this permit. Any deviation from the permitted activity and the conditions for undertaking that activity shall constitute a violation of this permit and Part IV, Chapter 373, F.S.
2. This permit or a copy thereof, complete with all conditions, attachments, exhibits, and modifications shall be kept at the work site of the permitted activity. The complete permit shall be available for review at the work site upon request by District staff. The permittee shall require the contractor to review the complete permit prior to commencement of the activity authorized by this permit.
3. Activities approved by this permit shall be conducted in a manner which does not cause violations of State water quality standards. The permittee shall implement best management practices for erosion and pollution control to prevent violation of State water quality standards. Temporary erosion control shall be implemented prior to and during construction, and permanent control measures shall be completed within 7 days of any construction activity. Turbidity barriers shall be installed and maintained at all locations where the possibility of transferring suspended solids into the receiving waterbody exists due to the permitted work. Turbidity barriers shall remain in place at all locations until construction is completed and soils are stabilized and vegetation has been established. All practices shall be in accordance with the guidelines and specifications described in Chapter 6 of the Florida Land Development Manual; A Guide to Sound Land and Water Management (Department of Environmental Regulation, 1988), incorporated by reference in Rule 40E-4.091, F.A.C. unless a project-specific erosion and sediment control plan is approved as part of the permit. Thereafter the permittee shall be responsible for the removal of the barriers. The permittee shall correct any erosion or shoaling that causes adverse impacts to the water resources.
4. The permittee shall notify the District of the anticipated construction start date within 30 days of the date that this permit is issued. At least 48 hours prior to commencement of activity authorized by this permit, the permittee shall submit to the District an Environmental Resource Permit Construction Commencement Notice Form Number 0960 indicating the actual start date and the expected construction completion date.
5. When the duration of construction will exceed one year, the permittee shall submit construction status reports to the District on an annual basis utilizing an annual status report form. Status report forms shall be submitted the following June of each year.
6. Within 30 days after completion of construction of the permitted activity, the permittee shall submit a written statement of completion and certification by a professional engineer or other individual authorized by law, utilizing the supplied Environmental Resource/Surface Water Management Permit Construction Completion/Certification Form Number 0881A, or Environmental Resource/Surface Water Management Permit Construction Completion Certification - For Projects Permitted prior to October 3, 1995 Form No. 0881B, incorporated by reference in Rule 40E-1.659, F.A.C. The statement of completion and certification shall be based on onsite observation of construction or review of as-built drawings for the purpose of determining if the work was completed in compliance with permitted plans and specifications. This submittal shall serve to notify the District that the system is ready for inspection. Additionally, if deviation from the approved drawings are discovered during the certification process, the certification must be accompanied by a copy of the approved permit drawings with deviations noted. Both the original and revised specifications must be clearly shown. The plans must be clearly labeled as "as-built" or "record" drawings. All surveyed dimensions and elevations shall be certified by a registered surveyor.
7. The operation phase of this permit shall not become effective: until the permittee has complied with the requirements of condition (6) above, and submitted a request for conversion of Environmental Resource Permit from Construction Phase to Operation Phase, Form No. 0920; the District determines the system to be in compliance with the permitted plans and specifications; and the entity approved by the District in accordance with Sections 9.0 and 10.0 of the Basis of Review for Environmental Resource Permit

GENERAL CONDITIONS

Applications within the South Florida Water Management District, accepts responsibility for operation and maintenance of the system. The permit shall not be transferred to such approved operation and maintenance entity until the operation phase of the permit becomes effective. Following inspection and approval of the permitted system by the District, the permittee shall initiate transfer of the permit to the approved responsible operating entity if different from the permittee. Until the permit is transferred pursuant to Section 40E-1.6107, F.A.C., the permittee shall be liable for compliance with the terms of the permit.

8. Each phase or independent portion of the permitted system must be completed in accordance with the permitted plans and permit conditions prior to the initiation of the permitted use of site infrastructure located within the area served by that portion or phase of the system. Each phase or independent portion of the system must be completed in accordance with the permitted plans and permit conditions prior to transfer of responsibility for operation and maintenance of the phase or portion of the system to a local government or other responsible entity.
9. For those systems that will be operated or maintained by an entity that will require an easement or deed restriction in order to enable that entity to operate or maintain the system in conformance with this permit, such easement or deed restriction must be recorded in the public records and submitted to the District along with any other final operation and maintenance documents required by Sections 9.0 and 10.0 of the Basis of Review for Environmental Resource Permit applications within the South Florida Water Management District, prior to lot or units sales or prior to the completion of the system, whichever comes first. Other documents concerning the establishment and authority of the operating entity must be filed with the Secretary of State, county or municipal entities. Final operation and maintenance documents must be received by the District when maintenance and operation of the system is accepted by the local government entity. Failure to submit the appropriate final documents will result in the permittee remaining liable for carrying out maintenance and operation of the permitted system and any other permit conditions.
10. Should any other regulatory agency require changes to the permitted system, the permittee shall notify the District in writing of the changes prior to implementation so that a determination can be made whether a permit modification is required.
11. This permit does not eliminate the necessity to obtain any required federal, state, local and special district authorizations prior to the start of any activity approved by this permit. This permit does not convey to the permittee or create in the permittee any property right, or any interest in real property, nor does it authorize any entrance upon or activities on property which is not owned or controlled by the permittee, or convey any rights or privileges other than those specified in the permit and Chapter 40E-4 or Chapter 40E-40, F.A.C..
12. The permittee is hereby advised that Section 253.77, F.S. states that a person may not commence any excavation, construction, or other activity involving the use of sovereign or other lands of the State, the title to which is vested in the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund without obtaining the required lease, license, easement, or other form of consent authorizing the proposed use. Therefore, the permittee is responsible for obtaining any necessary authorizations from the Board of Trustees prior to commencing activity on sovereignty lands or other state-owned lands.
13. The permittee must obtain a Water Use permit prior to construction dewatering, unless the work qualifies for a general permit pursuant to Subsection 40E-20.302(3), F.A.C., also known as the "No Notice" Rule.
14. The permittee shall hold and save the District harmless from any and all damages, claims, or liabilities which may arise by reason of the construction, alteration, operation, maintenance, removal, abandonment or use of any system authorized by the permit.
15. Any delineation of the extent of a wetland or other surface water submitted as part of the permit

GENERAL CONDITIONS

application, including plans or other supporting documentation, shall not be considered binding, unless a specific condition of this permit or a formal determination under Section 373.421(2), F.S., provides otherwise.

16. The permittee shall notify the District in writing within 30 days of any sale, conveyance, or other transfer of ownership or control of a permitted system or the real property on which the permitted system is located. All transfers of ownership or transfers of a permit are subject to the requirements of Rules 40E-1.6105 and 40E-1.6107, F.A.C.. The permittee transferring the permit shall remain liable for corrective actions that may be required as a result of any violations prior to the sale, conveyance or other transfer of the system.
17. Upon reasonable notice to the permittee, District authorized staff with proper identification shall have permission to enter, inspect, sample and test the system to insure conformity with the plans and specifications approved by the permit.
18. If historical or archaeological artifacts are discovered at any time on the project site, the permittee shall immediately notify the appropriate District service center.
19. The permittee shall immediately notify the District in writing of any previously submitted information that is later discovered to be inaccurate.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

1. The construction phase of this permit shall expire on December 5, 2013.
2. Operation of the surface water management system shall be the responsibility of the permittee.
3. Discharge Facilities: Retention proposed.
4. The permittee shall be responsible for the correction of any erosion, shoaling or water quality problems that result from the construction or operation of the surface water management system.
5. Measures shall be taken during construction to insure that sedimentation and/or turbidity violations do not occur in the receiving water.
6. The District reserves the right to require that additional water quality treatment methods be incorporated into the drainage system if such measures are shown to be necessary.
7. Facilities other than those stated herein shall not be constructed without an approved modification of this permit.
8. A stable, permanent and accessible elevation reference shall be established on or within one hundred (100) feet of all permitted discharge structures no later than the submission of the certification report. The location of the elevation reference must be noted on or with the certification report.
9. The permittee shall provide routine maintenance of all of the components of the surface water management system in order to remove all trapped sediments/debris. All materials shall be properly disposed of as required by law. Failure to properly maintain the system may result in adverse flooding conditions.
10. This permit is issued based on the applicant's submitted information which reasonably demonstrates that adverse water resource related impacts will not be caused by the completed permit activity. Should any adverse impacts caused by the completed surface water management system occur, the District will require the permittee to provide appropriate mitigation to the District or other impacted party. The District will require the permittee to modify the surface water management system, if necessary, to eliminate the cause of the adverse impacts.
11. All dewatering discharges during construction shall be contained on-site.
12. Silt screens, hay bales, turbidity screens/barriers or other such sediment control measures shall be utilized during construction. The installation of turbidity and erosion control devices may be phased to coincide with the construction sequence, following the sequence of land clearing. The selected sediment control measures shall be installed at the limits of construction and within adjacent canals/ditches and shall be properly "trenched" etc. in accordance with Exhibit 3.1. All areas shall be stabilized and vegetated immediately after construction to prevent erosion into adjacent wetlands and surface waters.
13. The permittee acknowledges, that pursuant to Rule 40E-4.101(2), F.A.C., a notice of Environmental Resource or Surface Water Management Permit may be recorded in the county public records. Pursuant to the specific language of the rule, this notice shall not be considered an encumbrance upon the property.
14. Minimum road crown elevation: See Exhibit 2.1 (Maximum Stage/Ditch Block Elevation)
15. The District reserves the right to require remedial measures to be taken by the permittee if monitoring or other information demonstrates that adverse impacts to onsite or offsite wetlands, upland conservation areas or buffers, or other surface waters have occurred due to project related activities.
16. Reference is made to Exhibit No. 2.2, 2.3, and 2.4 consisting of drainage maps, construction plans and construction details. The drawings have been signed and sealed by Hamid R. Raraji, P.E., of TBE Group,

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

Inc. on June 16, 2008 and have been included in this permit by reference (please see permit file).

17. The following exhibits for the permit are also incorporated by reference herein and are located in the permit file:

Exhibit No. 3.1 Erosion Control Plans and Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan

Exhibit No. 3.2 Mitigation Bank Credit Letter and Wetland Rapid Assessment Procedure worksheets

40E-4.321 Duration of Permits

(1) Unless revoked or otherwise modified pursuant to Rules 40E-4.331 and 40E-4.441, F.A.C., the duration of a surface water management permit issued under this chapter is as follows:

(a) Two years from the date of issuance for Conceptual Approval, unless within that period an application for a construction and operation permit is filed for any portion of the project. If an application for a construction and operation permit is filed, then the Conceptual Approval remains valid until final action is taken on the application. If the application is granted, then the Conceptual Approval is valid for an additional two years from the date of issuance of the construction and operation permit. Conceptual Approvals which have no applications for construction and operation filed for a period of two years will expire automatically.

(b) Five years from the date of issuance for a construction permit.

(c) Perpetual for an operation permit.

(2) The Governing Board shall issue permit extensions provided that a permittee files a written request with the District showing good cause. For the purpose of this rule, good cause shall mean a set of extenuating circumstances outside of the control of the permittee. Requests for extensions, which shall include documentation of the extenuating circumstances and how they have delayed this project, will not be accepted more than 180 days prior to the expiration date.

(3) For a Conceptual Approval filed concurrently with a development of regional impact (DRI) application for development approval (ADA) and a local government comprehensive amendment, the duration of the Conceptual Approval shall be two years from whichever one of the following occurs at the latest date:

(a) the effective date of the local government's comprehensive plan amendment,

(b) the effective date of the local government development order, or

(c) the date on which the district issues the Conceptual Approval, or

(d) the latest date of the resolution of any Chapter 120 or other legal appeals.

(4) Substantial modifications to Conceptual Approvals will extend the duration of the Conceptual Approval for two years from the date of issuance of the modification. For the purposes of this section, the term "substantial modification" shall mean a modification which is reasonably expected to lead to substantially different water resource or environmental impacts which require a detailed review.

(5) Modifications to construction permits issued pursuant to a formal permit application extend the duration of the permit for three years from the date of issuance of the modification. Construction permit modifications do not extend the duration of a Conceptual Approval.

(6) Permit modifications issued pursuant to subsection 40E-4.331(2)(b), F.A.C. (letter modifications) do not extend the duration of a permit.

STANDARD PROTECTION MEASURES FOR THE EASTERN INDIGO SNAKE

1. An eastern indigo snake protection/education plan shall be developed by the applicant or requestor for all construction personnel to follow. The plan shall be provided to the Service for review and approval at least 30 days prior to any clearing activities. The educational materials for the plan may consist of a combination of posters, videos, pamphlets, and lectures (*e.g.*, an observer trained to identify eastern indigo snakes could use the protection/education plan to instruct construction personnel before any clearing activities occur). Informational signs should be posted throughout the construction site and along any proposed access road to contain the following information:
 - a. a description of the eastern indigo snake, its habits, and protection under Federal Law;
 - b. instructions not to injure, harm, harass or kill this species;
 - c. directions to cease clearing activities and allow the eastern indigo snake sufficient time to move away from the site on its own before resuming clearing; and,
 - d. telephone numbers of pertinent agencies to be contacted if a dead eastern indigo snake is encountered. The dead specimen should be thoroughly soaked in water and then frozen.
2. If not currently authorized through an Incidental Take Statement in association with a Biological Opinion, only individuals who have been either authorized by a section 10(a)(1)(A) permit issued by the Service, or by the State of Florida through the Florida Fish Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) for such activities, are permitted to come in contact with an eastern indigo snake.
3. An eastern indigo snake monitoring report must be submitted to the appropriate Florida Field Office within 60 days of the conclusion of clearing phases. The report should be submitted whether or not eastern indigo snakes are observed. The report should contain the following information:
 - a. any sightings of eastern indigo snakes and
 - b. other obligations required by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, as stipulated in the permit.

Revised February 12, 2004

January 6, 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Department of the Army Environmental Assessment and Statement of Finding for Above-Numbered Permit Application

1. Applicant: Florida Department of Transportation District One
801 North Broadway Avenue
Bartow, FL 33830
2. Location, Geographic Position, Existing Conditions, Project Description, Changes to Project:
 - a. Location: The project site involves proposed impacts to unnamed wetlands and surface waters located along a 1.404-mile long segment of State Road 70 from Berman Road (NE 128th Avenue) to the St. Lucie County Line, in Section 36, Township 36 South, Range 36 East, Okeechobee County, Florida. The project is within the Everglades Watershed (03090202).
 - b. Latitude/Longitude:

| | |
|-----------|-------------|
| Latitude | 27.296690 |
| Longitude | - 80.687565 |
 - c. Existing Site Conditions: The project area includes approximately 55 acres, including 0.5 acre of wetlands. The overall area consists mainly of improved pastureland interspersed with scattered cabbage palms and pine trees. Waters of the United States within the project area include herbaceous marshes and roadside ditches. The wetlands are predominantly vegetated by exotic and nuisance species such as torpedo grass, primrose willow, and pennywort.
 - d. Initial Project Description As Shown on the Application: The applicant proposes to permanently impact approximately 0.25 acre of wetlands and 0.95 acre of surface waters, to construct two additional travel lanes along an approximately 1.404-mile long segment of SR 70, with attendant stormwater management facilities. As mitigation for the project impacts, the applicant proposes to purchase 0.113 mitigation bank credit from the Bluefield Ranch Mitigation Bank.
 - e. Final Project Description: The final project description is the same as the initial project description.
3. Project Purpose:
 - a. Basic: To widen a section of an existing highway from two lanes to four lanes to

provide improved transportation capacity

- b. Overall: To widen an approximately 1.404-mile long segment of SR 70 in Okeechobee County from two lanes to four lanes to meet a need for additional transportation capacity in that area and adjacent areas
4. Scope of Analysis: The overall area under consideration measures approximately 55 acres, including the wetlands described above.
5. Statutory Authority: Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), as amended.
6. Other Federal, State, and Local Authorizations Obtained or Required and Pending:
 - a. State water quality certification (WQC): The Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) issued an Environmental Resource Individual Construction Permit (ERP) for the project on December 5, 2008.
 - b. Coastal Zone Management (CZM) consistency/permit: There is no evidence or indication from the State of Florida that the project is inconsistent with the Florida CZM. Issuance of a DEP/WMD permit certifies that the project is consistent with the CZM plan.
 - c. Other authorizations: No information has been received regarding any other authorizations that may be required.
7. Date of Public Notice and Summary of Comments:
 - a. Pre-application meeting(s): NA
 - b. Important dates: The Corps received the application for the project on June 19, 2008, considered it complete on July 29, 2008, and sent a public notice on August 21, 2008, to all interested parties including appropriate State and Federal agencies.
 - c. Public notice comments: The Corps has reviewed all of the comments submitted in response to the circulation of the public notice. The Corps has summarized these comments below:
 - (1) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): EPA did not respond to the public notice.

- (2) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS): The USFWS responded to the public notice and the Corps' request for informal coordination on September 9, 2008. The USFWS concurred with the Corps' 'may affect, not likely to adversely affect' determination for the Audubon's crested caracara and the wood stork, and stated that the proposed action will not significantly affect other fish and wildlife resources.
- (3) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS): The NMFS did not respond to the public notice
- (4) State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO): The SHPO did not respond to the public notice.
- (5) State and local agencies: NA
- (6) Organizations: NA
- (7) Individuals: NA
- (8) Others Including Internal Coordination: NA

d. Response to the comments: No coordination of the comments was necessary.

e. Additional Coordination of Project Revisions: No other coordination was necessary.

8. Alternatives

a. Avoidance: The current proposal has taken into consideration avoidance. The project site, alongside the existing road alignment, was the most practicable location for the activity.

b. Minimization: The project was planned and designed with a view to minimizing impacts to wetland resources.

c. Project As Proposed: The current project requires the placement of fill into waters of the United States to allow the applicant to address the need for improved infrastructure.

d. Conclusions of Alternatives Analysis: The applicant has provided an acceptable mitigation plan to compensate for unavoidable wetland impacts. The current proposal of 1.2 acres of permanent impacts to wetlands and surface waters is the least damaging, practicable

alternative.

9. Evaluation of the 404(b)(1) Guidelines: The Corps reviewed the proposed project in accordance with the 404(b)(1) Guidelines. The review demonstrates that the Corps analyzed all of the alternatives and that the proposed alternative is the least environmentally damaging and practicable alternative considering expense, existing technology, and logistics. The project would not cause or contribute to violations of State Water quality standards, jeopardize the existence of any endangered species or affect a marine sanctuary. The Corps does not expect significant degradation and the applicant has taken all available practicable steps to minimize impacts.

10. Public interest review:

a. Public interest factors: The Corps reviewed all of the public interest factors including, but not limited to, the effects the work might have on conservation, economics, esthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water quality, safety, and consideration of property ownership. The Corps has determined that the proposed work will not adversely affect any of the public interest factors.

b. Describe the relative extent of the public and private need for the proposed structure or work: Public and private needs include improved transportation infrastructure.

c. Describe the practicability of using reasonable alternative locations and methods to accomplish the objective of the purposed work where there are unresolved conflicts as to resource use: There are no unresolved conflicts regarding resource use.

d. Describe the extent and permanence of the beneficial and/or detrimental effects, which the proposed work is likely to have on the public, and private uses to which the area is suited: Detrimental impacts are expected to be minimal although they would be permanent in the construction area. The beneficial effects associated with utilization of the property would be permanent.

e. Threatened or endangered species: The proposed project will not affect any threatened or endangered species based on the information supplied by the applicant and the September 9, 2008, comments from the USFWS.

f. Corps wetland policy: The proposed wetland alteration is necessary to realize the project purpose. The proposed work should result in minimal adverse environmental impacts.

The benefits of the project would outweigh the minimal detrimental impacts. The proposed mitigation adequately offsets the wetland impacts. Therefore, the project is in accordance with the Corps wetland policy.

g. Cumulative and secondary Impacts: The issue of cumulative impacts has been addressed. The proposed impacts will not result in cumulative or secondary impacts to the remaining wetlands within the general area.

h. Corps analysis of comments and responses: The Corps did not receive any comments in response to the public notice. There are no unresolved issues.

11. Essential Fisheries Habitat (EFH): The project would not adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat.

12. Public Hearing Evaluation: No requests were received for a public hearing.

13. Determinations:

a. Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI): Having reviewed the information provided by the applicant and all interested parties and an assessment of the environmental impacts, I find that this permit action will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be required.

b. Compliance with 404(b)(1) Guidelines: Having completed the evaluation in paragraph 8 above, I have determined that the proposed discharge complies with the 404(b)(1) guidelines.

c. Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act General Conformity Rule Review: The proposed permit action has been analyzed for conformity applicability pursuant to regulations implementing Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act. It has been determined that the activities proposed under this permit will not exceed de minimis levels of direct or indirect emissions of a criteria pollutant or its precursors and are exempted by 40 CFR Part 93.153. Any later indirect emissions are generally not within the Corps' continuing program responsibility and generally cannot be practicably controlled by the Corps. For these reasons a conformity determination is not required for this permit action.

d. Public Interest Determination: I find that issuance of a Department of the Army permit is not contrary to the public interest.

CESAJ-RD-ST SAJ-2008-2398 (IP-JPF)

SUBJECT: Department of the Army Environmental Assessment and Statement of Findings for the Above-Numbered Permit Application

PREPARED BY:



JOHN P. FELLOWS
Project Manager, Tampa Section

REVIEWED BY:

Tori White
Chief, Palm Beach Gardens Section

REVIEWED BY:

STEPHEN R. SULLIVAN
Chief, South Permits Branch


APPROVED BY:

PAUL L. GROSSKRUGER
Commanding

CESAJ-RD-ST SAJ-2008-2398 (IP-JPF)

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PREPARED BY:



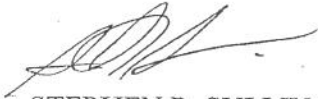
JOHN P. FELLOWS
Project Manager, Tampa Section

REVIEWED BY:



Tori White
Chief, Palm Beach Gardens Section

REVIEWED BY:



STEPHEN R. SULLIVAN
Chief, South Permits Branch

APPROVED BY:



PAUL L. GROSSKRUGER
Commanding

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10/20/08